

Transportation in Illinois is a partnership that includes the private sector, the state, the federal government, local governments, and the citizens who use and pay for the system.

This partnership is crucial in defining and carrying out the mission of the Illinois Department of Transportation — to serve the public by providing the most efficient and safe transportation system that will support economic development and improve the quality of life for every citizen.

We work in a dynamic environment, guided by public policy, citizens input, engineering principles and technological changes. With many interests and needs competing for limited resources, we are constantly looking for ways to become more effective and efficient in building, managing or planning one of the most extensively used multi-modal transportation systems.

Our accomplishments in Fiscal Year 1999 have been achieved by a pared-down staff (6,500 full-time IDOT employees compared with more than 7,500 twenty years earlier). These dedicated and skilled employees deserve much of the credit for getting the many jobs done. Private construction and engineering firms also have played a vital role in implementing IDOT's programs and projects.

One of the highlights of Fiscal Year 1999 was the legislative approval of Illinois FIRST, Governor George Ryan's infrastructure investment initiative that provided much needed new funding to move forward on highway, public transit, airport and rail system improvements.

Although the projects financed under the Illinois FIRST initiative will not get under way until Fiscal Year 2000, IDOT's record of accomplishments in Fiscal Year 1999 is significant. We fully accomplished the projects in the state highway program, made progress toward the development of high-speed rail passenger service, maintained gains in Amtrak ridership, supported improvements at 46 airports throughout the state, and maintained the lowest traffic fatality rate in the state's history.

This annual report outlines how we invested the taxpayers' money in the state's transportation infrastructure. We have used technology, good management and privatization to serve the public with improved transportation services and facilities. It is my hope we have succeeded.



Kirk Brown  
Secretary,  
Illinois Department of Transportation